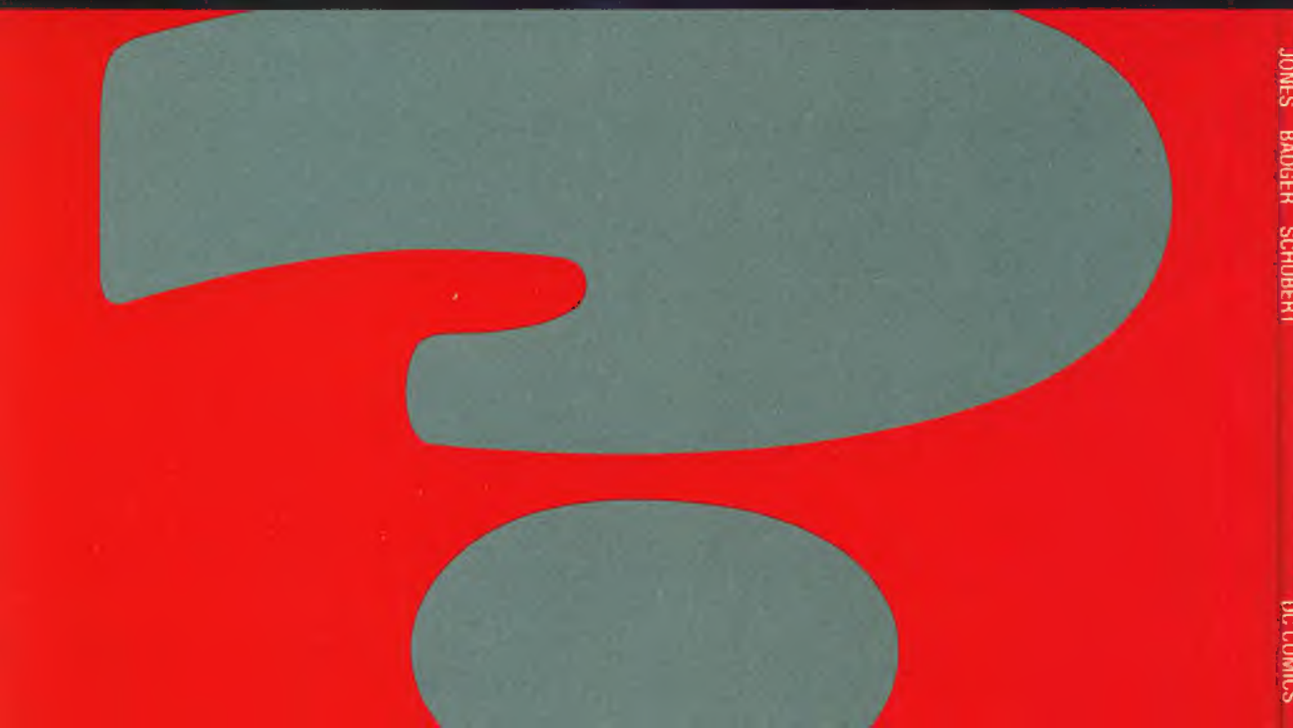
BATMAN:

run, RIDDLER, run

gerard JONES mark BADGER willie SCHUBERT



BATMAN: RUN, RIDDLER, RUN 3

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JONES BADGER SCHUBERT

DC COMICS

$4.95 $5.95 CAN BOOK THREE

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run, RIDDLER™, run

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BATMAN: RUN, RIDDLER, RUN
Book three of three
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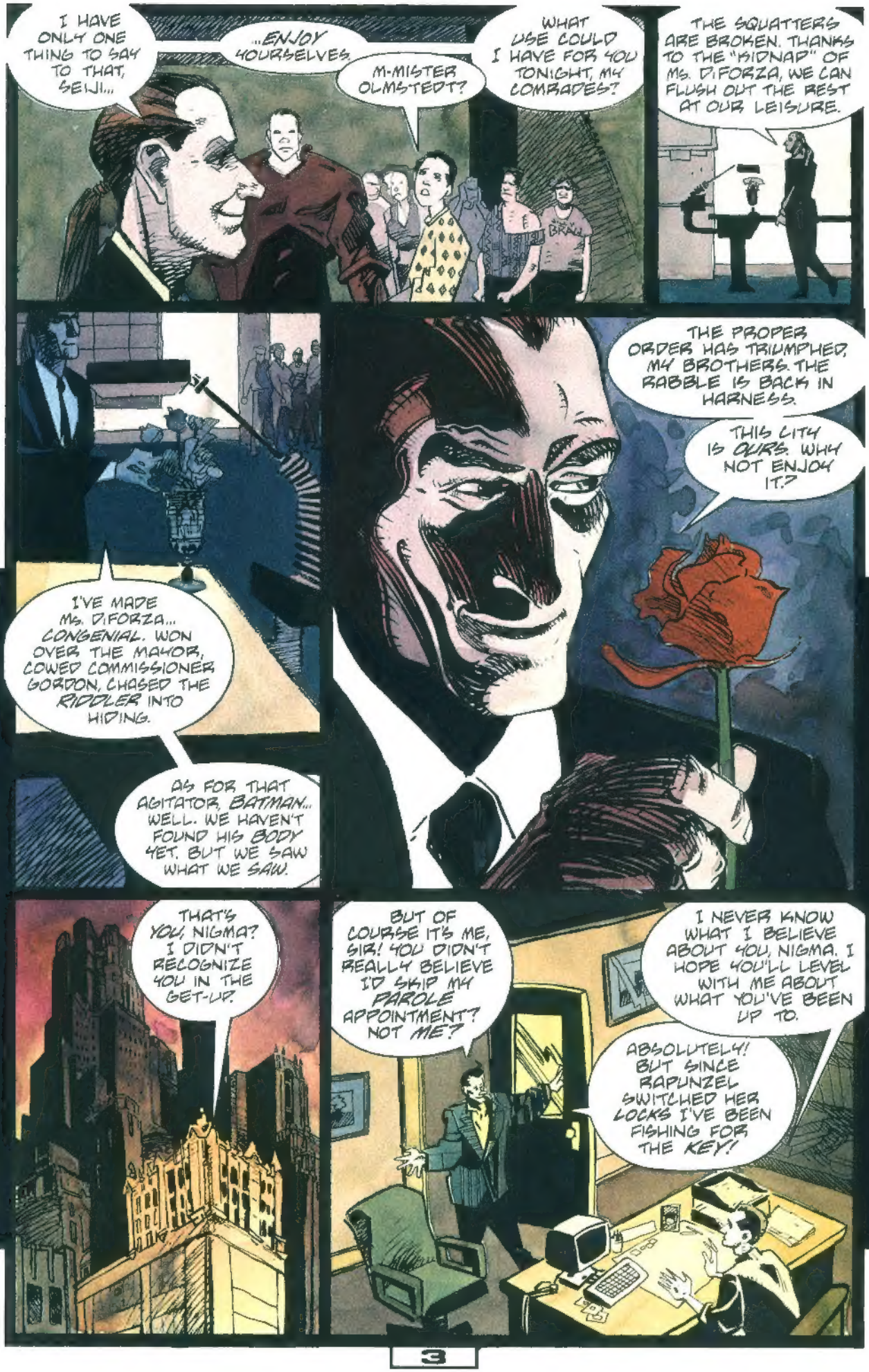
gerard JONES
SCRIPT & PLOT

mark BADGER
ART & PLOT

willie SCHUBERT
LETTERS

...with good intentions

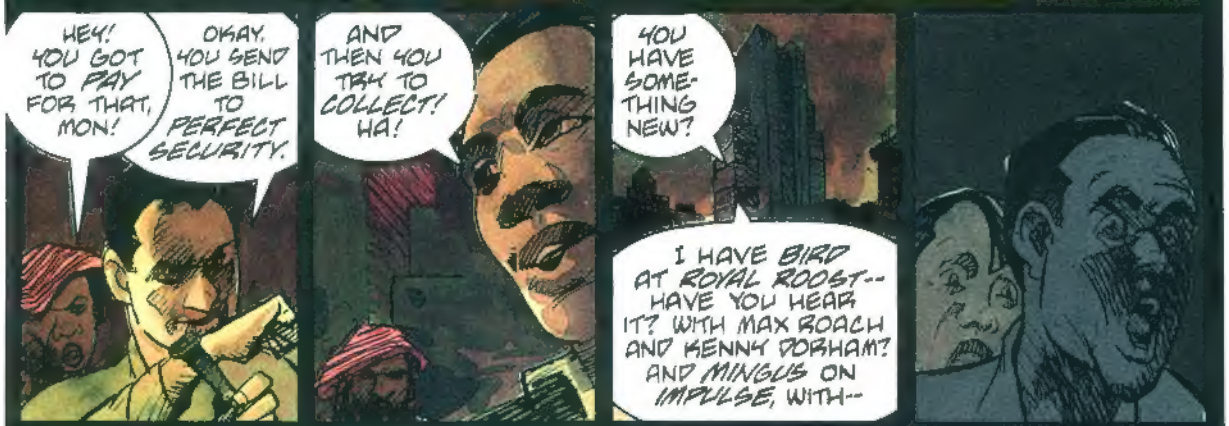
PFF
NOW YOU SEE.
OH GOD... ANGELO...
OKAY, OKAY. LEMME TRY IT.
NO!
Y'MEAN PUT IT HERE, RIGHT?
NO, JOHNNY. PUT IT RIGHT AT BASE.
AAAAAA
HERE.
AAA--*
PFF
OH-- THERE.
I BETTER TRY THIS AGAIN.
SEIJI! SHINJI! KOKO DA! I HAVE TICKETS-- SONNY FARMER AND CLIFFORD WILLIAMS AT DOWN-BEAT!
AT LAST! SO-- LET US FINISH THESE PRISON-ERS--
AND GO?
THAT WAS WHAT YOU WERE ABOUT TO SAY, WASN'T IT?
OH, MISTER OLMSTEDT! WE... ONLY MEANT..


I HAVE ONLY ONE THING TO SAY TO THAT, SEIJI...
...ENJOY YOURSELVES.
M-MISTER OLMSTEDT?
WHAT USE COULD I HAVE FOR YOU TONIGHT, MY COMRADES?
THE SQUATTERS ARE BROKEN. THANKS TO THE "KIDNAP" OF MS. DIFORZA, WE CAN FLUSH OUT THE REST AT OUR LEISURE.
I'VE MADE MS. DIFORZA... CONGENIAL. WON OVER THE MAYOR, COWED COMMISSIONER GORDON, CHASED THE RIDDLER INTO HIDING.
AS FOR THAT AGITATOR, BATMAN... WELL. WE HAVEN'T FOUND HIS BODY YET. BUT WE SAW WHAT WE SAW.
THE PROPER ORDER HAS TRIUMPHED, MY BROTHERS. THE RABBLE IS BACK IN HARNESS.
THIS CITY IS OURS. WHY NOT ENJOY IT?
THAT'S YOU, NIGMA? I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU IN THE GET-UP.
BUT OF COURSE IT'S ME, SIR! YOU DIDN'T REALLY BELIEVE I'D SKIP MY PAROLE APPOINTMENT? NOT ME?
I NEVER KNOW WHAT I BELIEVE ABOUT YOU, NIGMA. I HOPE YOU'LL LEVEL WITH ME ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO.
ABSOLUTELY! BUT SINCE RAPUNZEL SWITCHED HER LOCKS I'VE BEEN FISHING FOR THE KEY!

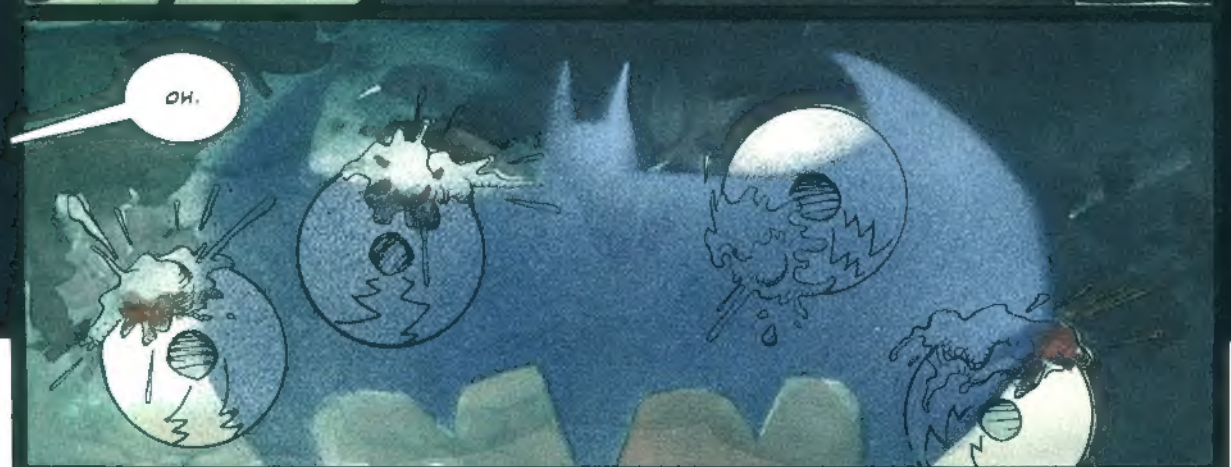
WAIT. RAPUNZEL. THE CHICK IN THE TOWER? SO THAT'S... DIFORZA SWITCHED HER LOCKS...
THREW YOU OUT? OUT OF WORK? BUT WHAT'S "FISHING"? "FISH"?
I'D TAKE OFFENSE, BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE CRICKET. IF I'VE LOST THE KEY, THE CODE IS WORTH-LESS.
WAIT. "CRICKET." THE BUG... OR THE GAME? CRICKET OFFENSE. WICKETS... BATSMAN...
BATMAN. YOUR VIDEOTAPE TO BATMAN! CONNECTED TO DIFORZA?
NIGMA? FOR ONCE JUST TELL ME--
BUT I'VE TOLD YOU, SIR. WITHOUT HER LOCKS I NEED WINGS FOR THE TOWER. BUT MY WINGS ARE CLIPPED AND I'M STILL FALLING.
THERE.
OH, FOR-GET IT. I'M SURE YOU'RE DOING EVERYTHING FINE, NIGMA. BUT NEXT TIME, DO ME A FAVOR...
...DON'T TELL ME ANYTHING!
YES INDEEDY, SIR. OUT OF MIND, OUT OF SIGHT, I ALWAYS SAY.
NO ONE LEFT?
NO ONE RIGHT?
OH, GOODY GOODY--
--GWOOOO!

FRITZ--YOU CAN'T SHADOW ME AT THIS FUND-RAISER.
I CAN. I MUST. I WILL.
YOU MUST ACCUSTOM YOURSELF TO THIS, MS. DIFORZA. EVER SINCE THE KIDNAP--
THERE WAS NO KIDNAP!
IF I NEED THERE TO HAVE BEEN A KIDNAP.. THERE WAS A KIDNAP.
WHOEVER WORKS HARDEST TO PROTECT A SYSTEM WILL EVENTUALLY CONTROL IT. WE WILL NOT LET THE CORPORATE SYSTEM FALL TO THE RABBLE AS THE COMMUNIST DID.
YOU CAN BLACK-MAIL ME, OLMSTEDT-- BUT THERE ARE OTHERS, BRUCE WAYNE--
WILL BE FINISHED IN THIS ENTERPRISE AS SOON AS I LEAK HIS CONNECTION TO THE LEGAL DEFENSE OF THE SQUATTERS.
WAYNE IS LIKE YOU, MS. DIFORZA, CONFUSED IN HIS PURPOSE AND LOYALTIES. BUT DON'T WORRY...
...I AM HERE TO BE SURE THAT YOU ALL DO WHAT YOU MUST.
I DON'T GET IT, SEIJI! WHY DIDN'T THEY WANNA PLAY FOR US?
JUST LIKE MISTER OLMSTEDT SAYS! THE RABBLE DON'T UNDERSTAND THEIR OWN NEEDS!
"WE DO NOT PLAY FOR FASCISTS!" BAKA NA! IDIOTS!
Downbeat

THESE PEOPLE MAKE GOOD MUSIC--BUT THEY NEED US TO PROTECT THEM.
WE GO BACK TO MY CO-OP AND AND LISTEN MY CDs!
YEAH. YEAH! WE DON'T NEED THEM!
WATCHES

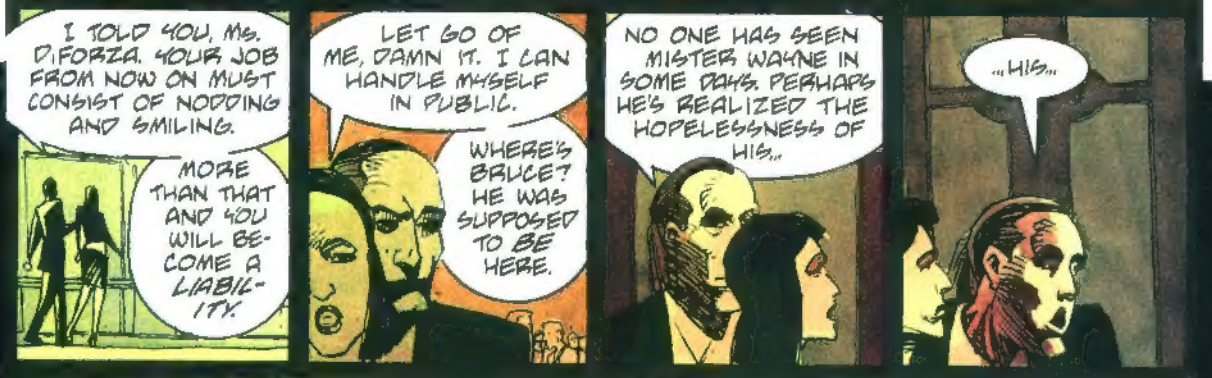

HEY! YOU GOT TO PAY FOR THAT, MON!
OKAY. YOU SEND THE BILL TO PERFECT SECURITY.
AND THEN YOU TRY TO COLLECT! HA!
YOU HAVE SOMETHING NEW?
I HAVE BIRD AT ROYAL ROOST-- HAVE YOU HEAR IT? WITH MAX ROACH AND KENNY DORHAM? AND MINGUS ON IMPULSE, WITH--

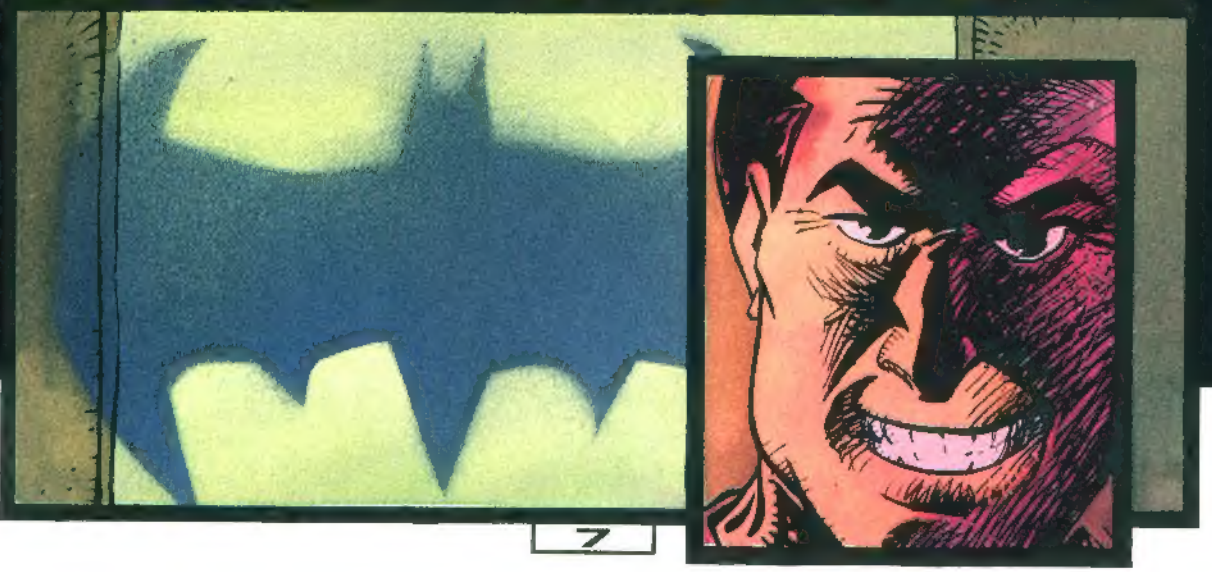
WHAT--?
MY... MY CDs?
WHO WOULD DO THIS? WHO WOULD DARE? WHO WOULD--


OH.

AND TO CONTINUE AFTER THOSE PEOPLE KIDNAPPED YOU?
DON'T YOU WISH THERE WERE SOME WAY WE COULD MAKE THOSE PEOPLE SEE THAT WE'RE ONLY THINKING OF THEM?
OH. WELL... YES...
--NO, DONNA, I'M COMPLETELY SINCERE. I THINK IT'S FAB-ULOUS WHAT YOU'RE DOING FOR THIS CITY.
WELL... ACTUALLY, I...

PLEASE. MS. DIFORZA IS STILL A BIT FATIGUED FROM HER HARROWING EXPERIENCE. YOU WILL PARDON HER.
OH, OF COURSE. OF COURSE.


I TOLD YOU, MS. DIFORZA. YOUR JOB FROM NOW ON MUST CONSIST OF NODDING AND SMILING.
MORE THAN THAT AND YOU WILL BE-COME A LIABIL-ITY.
LET GO OF ME, DAMN IT. I CAN HANDLE MYSELF IN PUBLIC.
WHERE'S BRUCE? HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE.
NO ONE HAS SEEN MISTER WAYNE IN SOME DAYS. PERHAPS HE'S REALIZED THE HOPELESSNESS OF HIS..
..HIS..



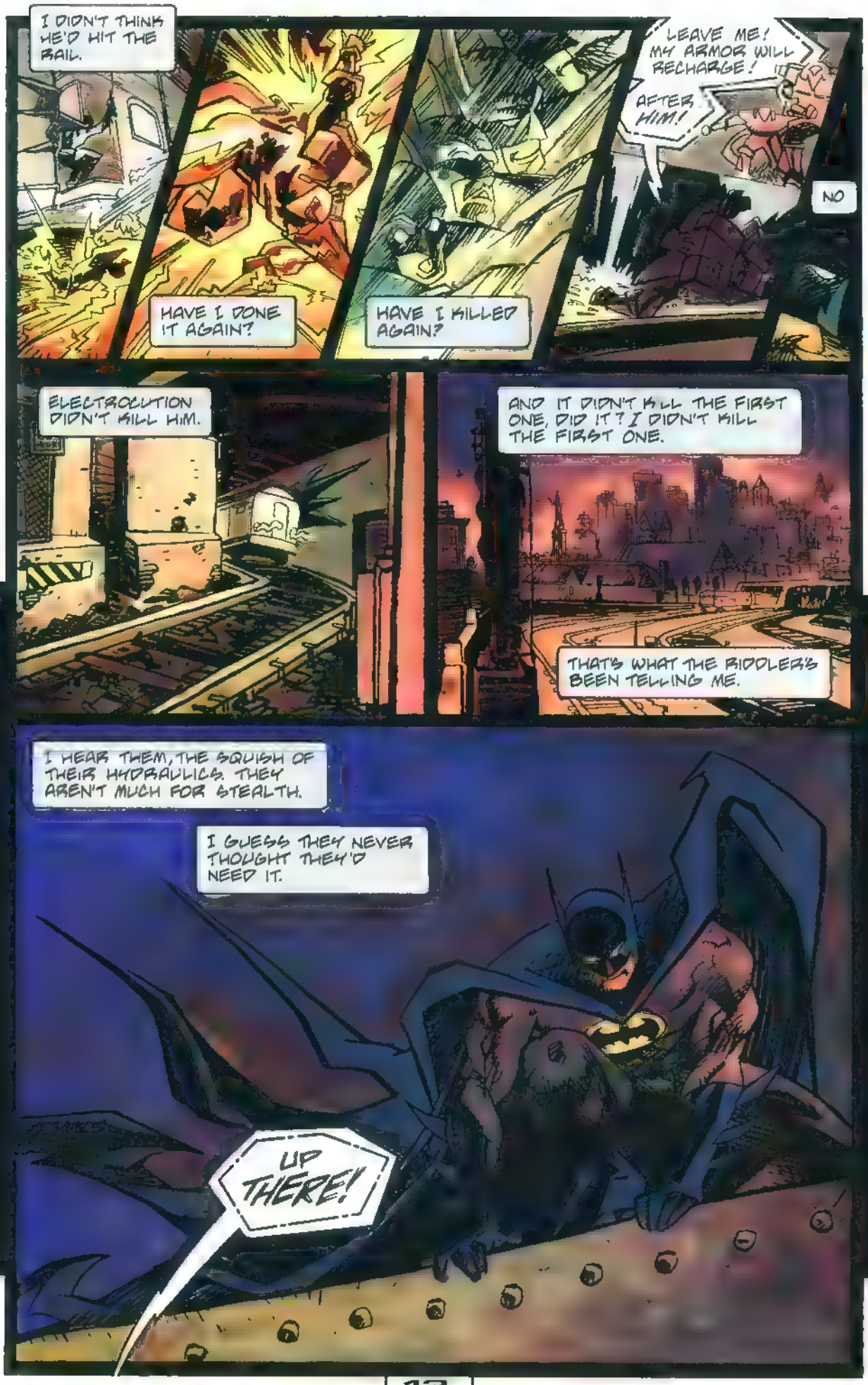
BWUM
WHERE IS BATMAN?
WHERE IS BATMAN?
I DON'T KNOW!
BAM BAM
UUUHHHHH
SPLATH
I'M SORRY, MISTER MAYOR--I CAN'T APPROVE THIS. THESE ARE DEPUTIES IN MY POLICE FORCE, AND AS SUCH--
THEY DO WHATEVER'S FOR THE GOOD OF THE CITY, GORDON.
LOOK AT 'EM. CLEANING THE SLATE FOR NEW GOTHAM AND SAVING US MILLIONS IN DEMOLITION BILLS. JUST HOPE THEY CAN ROOT OUT THE REST OF THEM--
POLICE

"--ESPECIALLY THAT DAMN CIFUENTES WOMAN!"
WHERE NOW, BOB? WHERE NOW?
JUST KEEP MOVING. I HEARD 'EM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BUILDING, BUT THE WAY THOSE THINGS CAN MOVE--
BWOOOM
WHERE IS BATMAN?
PLEASE! WE DON'T KNOW! WE DON'T--
KRAKKA

NO!
OH, NO!!
OH YES, MISS LIFUENTES.
NOW HANG ON TIGHT--
--WHILE WE MAKE OUR EXIT.
BUT-- BUT--
--THE-- THE--
Yuhh!
--THE OTHERS--
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM.

THEY WANT ME FIRST, YOU SECOND. THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT THE REST.
NOW, INTO THE CAR--
--I WANT THEM FOLLOWING ME
WHAT--? WHO--?
NEVER FEAR, MS. C FUENTES. YOU WILL BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF.
THIS WAY, MISTER OLMSTEDT-- HE WENT INTO THE SUBWAY!
SO EVEN HE CAN PANIC...
EVEN HE CAN MAKE A STUPID MOVE.
FAN OUT! WE FAIL TO FIND HIM HERE! THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN--

THIS BLOW WON'T DO A THING--
FIRE! FIRE!
KLHONG
BUDDAB
--BUT ATTRACT THEIR ATTENTION. THE ARMOR'S BULLET-PROOF PROTECTS HIM, LIKE HE FIGURED--
--AND ME, TOO.
BAKKABA
BUT IT WON'T PROTECT THE WALL--
--OR THE SEWER LINE JUST BEYOND IT.
BLOOOSHH
Gnaaahhhh!
GET HIM!
ZAKK


I DIDN'T THINK HE'D HIT THE RAIL.
HAVE I DONE IT AGAIN?
HAVE I KILLED AGAIN?
LEAVE ME! MY ARMOR WILL RECHARGE!
AFTER HIM!
NO
ELECTROCUTION DIDN'T KILL HIM.
AND IT DIDN'T KILL THE FIRST ONE, DID IT? I DIDN'T KILL THE FIRST ONE.
THAT'S WHAT THE RIDDLER'S BEEN TELLING ME.
I HEAR THEM, THE SQUISH OF THEIR HYDRAULICS. THEY AREN'T MUCH FOR STEALTH.
I GUESS THEY NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D NEED IT.
UP THERE!

BUDDABUDDA
DID I HIT HIM?
NO! THERE!
WHERE? WHERE?
HERE! I SAW HIM--
DITMAS
NOWHERE.
WE CANNOT LOSE HIM!
AT LEAST THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN DO TO US! KEEP SEARCHING.
LIQUID NITROGEN.
IT POWERS JACKHAMMERS, IF I REMEMBER RIGHT
HIGH-PRESSURE STUFF. IT ALWAYS BEARS WARNINGS, LIKE...
LOOK OUT!
..."DO NOT KNOCK OFF LAP."

KE
OOR S
SKOM
ONE DOWN.
PSCHOOOOOOOOOOOO
ONE ON MY TAIL. JUST LIKE I WANTED IT.
SHKACHKACHKACH
THESE FELLOWS ALL SEEM TO LIKE JAZZ.
KLONK
SO LET'S SEE IF HE'LL TAKE THE A TRAIN.

ALL THE WAY TO MOONEY ISLAND.
RRCR
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ME! YOU ARE FLESH! I AM STEEL! YOU GROW WEARY! I DO NOT!
I--
SKRONG
DAMN YOU
CHMP
CHMP
HE'LL BE BACK.
CHMP
DAMN YOU!
SHORE
AND HE'LL BE ANGRY.
NINJA KILLER
STAY VISIBLE.

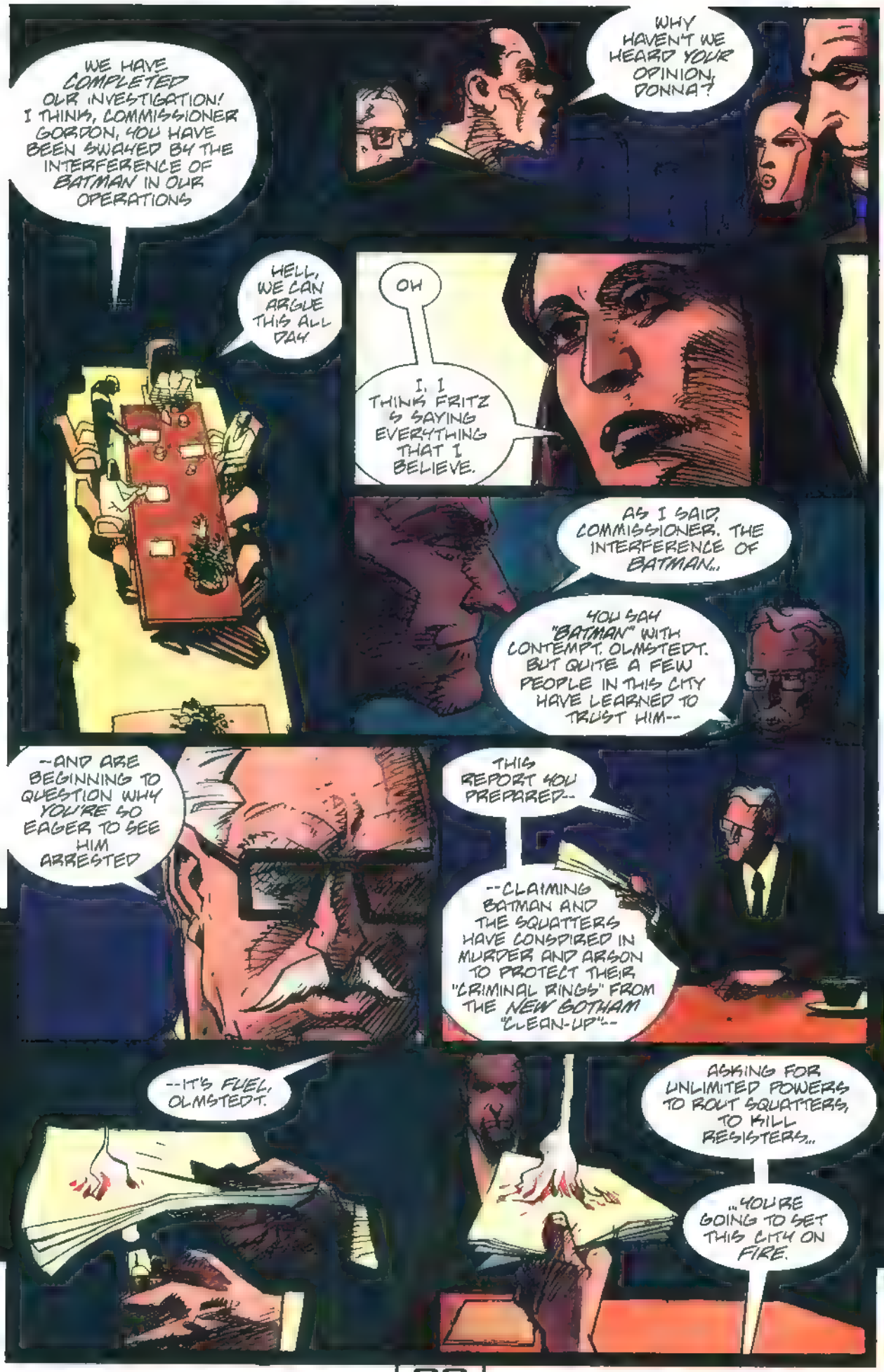
BATMAN-- YOU WILL PAY!
KEEP HIM COMING.
PAST THE CROWDS.
CLEAR OUT! ALL OF YOU!
THERE'S SOMEONE COMING WHO YOU DON'T WANT TO MEET!
LEAD HIM TO THE SAND.
LOOK!
SLASH
IN THE SKY!
IT'S A ROBOT! IT'S A--
WHERE IS HE?
FWOOMP
GOOD. A BIG SPLASH LANDING. A BIG CLOUD OF SAND.
HE CAN'T SEE.

HE CAN'T BREATHE...
SSSSS
...WITHOUT HIS HOSES.
FUMP
:koff koff hak hak:
BUT THE SAND SETTLES. SO LET'S RAISE THE STAKES...
YOU HAVE--:hak: HAVE DOOMED YOUR--
SSSSSS
AR HOSE.. STILL LEAKING? BUT I CUT OFF..
GYAAAAA!
SUIT-RELEASE! SUIT-RELEASE!
BUH-CHONNNG
AAAAA
...OR IS THAT RAISE THE SNAKES?

POW
THANKS FOR THE SUIT.
OH, PLEASE. PLEASE! YOU CAN TELL ME. HOW DID YOU ESCAPE THE JAWS OF DEATH ON THAT SUBWAY TRACK, hm?
THAT DOESN'T MATTER NOW, RIDDLER. WHAT MATTERS IS FINDING THE WEAKNESSES IN THIS ARMOR... AND A WAY TO TAP INTO ITS CLOSED-CIRCUIT RADIO.
BUT I NEED TO KNOW, BATMAN WHEN WE BREAK INTO MS. DIFORZA'S TOWER, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BRAVE SOME TERRIBLE DEATH-TRAPS!
I'LL DO WHATEVER I HAVE TO, RIDDLER--TO PROVE THAT OLMSTEDT MURDERED HIS OWN MAN.
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN.
AND TO CLEAR YOURSELF, BATMAN! DON'T FORGET!

BUT HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SOMETHING ELSE? YOU CAN'T BRING DOWN OLMSTEDT... WITHOUT BRINGING DOWN MS. DIFORZA'S WHOLE "NEW GOTHAM" PLAN.
I KNOW, RIDDLER.
I KNOW
MY GOODNESS! AND WHAT DID THE NEURO-SURGERY PATIENT SAY AFTER THE BRAIN TRANS-PLANT?
"WAIT, I'VE CHANGED MY MIND."
I GET THE MESSAGE RIDDLER. YES, I BELIEVED IN NEW GOTHAM. BELIEVED IN ITS ULTIMATE END--A CLEAN AND SAFE AND CRIMELESS COMMUNITY.
BUT THERE ARE NO "ULTIMATE ENDS," BATSY. ONLY GAMES AND MORE GAMES. THE WINNER THIS ROUND IS THE LOSER NEXT ROUND...
...AND AROUND...
...AND AROUND...
THERE CAN BE ENDS. WE CAN WIN. BUT THERE ARE RIGHT MEANS AND WRONG MEANS.
AND JUST PLAIN MEAN MEANS
IMPOSING CONTROL FROM ABOVE--NOT ENLISTING CITIZENS IN THE CREATION OF THEIR OWN COMMUNITY--
--THOSE ARE WRONG MEANS.

OOOO, LET ME MAKE A NOTE OF THIS! THE DAY BATMAN BECAME A POPULIST..
NO.
A REALIST. I KNOW WHAT WORKS. WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN.
AND I KNOW HOW TO DEFEAT THIS ARMOR.
THEN WE CAN INVADE THE TOWER.
SOON. FIRST WE HAVE ONE MORE JOB.
IT WAS A GOOD IDEA...
IT WAS... SUCH A GOOD IDEA...
I WANTED MY POWER TO WORK FOR SOMETHING... I WANTED MY POWER... MY POWER...
WHY ARE YOU SITTING HERE, MS. DIFORZA? I TOLD YOU I WANTED YOU READY!
THEY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN THE MEETING-- THAT SHOULD COMPLETE OUR TRANSFER OF POWER.
THIS IS PREPOSTEROUS. HOW CAN WE ALLOW DEMOLITION WITHOUT INVESTIGATION?


WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR INVESTIGATION! I THINK, COMMISSIONER GORDON, YOU HAVE BEEN SWAYED BY THE INTERFERENCE OF BATMAN IN OUR OPERATIONS
WHY HAVEN'T WE HEARD YOUR OPINION, DONNA?
HELL, WE CAN ARGUE THIS ALL DAY.
OH
I, I THINK FRITZ S SAYING EVERYTHING THAT I BELIEVE.
AS I SAID, COMMISSIONER, THE INTERFERENCE OF BATMAN...
YOU SAY "BATMAN" WITH CONTEMPT, OLMSTEDT. BUT QUITE A FEW PEOPLE IN THIS CITY HAVE LEARNED TO TRUST HIM--
--AND ARE BEGINNING TO QUESTION WHY YOU'RE SO EAGER TO SEE HIM ARRESTED
THIS REPORT YOU PREPARED--
--CLAIMING BATMAN AND THE SQUATTERS HAVE CONSPIRED IN MURDER AND ARSON TO PROTECT THEIR "CRIMINAL RINGS" FROM THE NEW GOTHAM "CLEAN-UP"--
--IT'S FUEL, OLMSTEDT.
ASKING FOR UNLIMITED POWERS TO ROUT SQUATTERS, TO KILL REGISTERS...
...YOU'RE GOING TO SET THIS CITY ON FIRE.

HOOMP
YOU ARE THE PROBLEM, GORDON.
YOU AND COWARDS LIKE YOU WHO MOAN ABOUT THE PROBLEMS IN OUR CITIES BUT WILL NOT DO WHAT IS NELESSARY TO FIX THEM.
YOUR KIND DESTROYED MY GOVERMENT IN EAST GERMANY! YOU WILL NOT DESTROY THIS CITY!
NOT BUREAUCRATS LIKE YOU! NOT RICH DILETTANTES LIKE BRUCE WAYNE!
DON'T YOU JUST HATE THOSE RICH DILETTANTES?
BRUCE!
YOU JOKE BUT YOUR OWN LATENESS PROVES MY WORDS
I'VE NEVER BEEN INTERESTED IN BURLESQUE SHOWS, FRITZ. I'LL BE ON TIME WHEN THE REAL DRAMA STARTS.
BRUCE...
I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU... BUT NOT HERE...
DON'T WORRY. I KNOW.
I'M GOING TO BRING HIM DOWN, DONNA.

DONNA-- DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME?
YOU'RE NOT MISSING ANYTHING, FRITZ.
THIS IS ALL A WASTE O' TIME. I'VE MADE MY DECISION ALREADY. WE GOT A CRISIS IN THIS CITY!
I'M DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY. I'M GIVING UNLIMITED POLICE POWER...
...TO PERFECT SECURITY.
THEN YOU TELL THE PEOPLE THAT!
YOU TELL THEM YOU'VE UNLEASHED A PARAMILITARY FORCE--
--TO PROTECT A CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT!
WHEN, BRUCE? WHEN CAN YOU END THIS?
MISTER MAYOR, I'M STEPPING DOWN AS COMMISSIONER OF POLICE. YOU'LL HAVE MY LETTER OF RESIGNATION TONIGHT.
COME ON, JIM, I NEED--
YOU NEED MORE THAN I CAN GIVE YOU. YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN ANYONE CAN GIVE YOU--TO HANDLE WHAT YOU'VE STARTED!
MISTER MAYOR, YOU WILL NOT REGRET THIS. MS. DIFORZA AND I ARE VERY GRATEFUL.
NOW, DONNA-- WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS
BRUCE?
SOON.
SOON I'LL BRING HIM DOWN.
COME, DONNA!
SOON I'LL BE YOUR KNIGHT IN SHINING TUXEDO AGAIN.

THEY DO WHAT THEY PROMISED.
WITH NO ONE ELSE TO TRUST, WE DECIDE TO TRUST EACH OTHER.
BATMAN AND SQUATTERS, "CRIMEFIGHTER" AND "CRIMINALS."
THEY FAN OUT THROUGH THE CITY, SPREADING SIGNS OF BATMAN'S PRESENCE.
PHONY SIGNS, FOR A PHONY TRAIL.
AGAIN! AGAIN! AGAIN!
EVERY TIME I SEND YOU TO KILL HIM--BATMAN RETURNS!
THIS TIME WE WILL ALL GO TOGETHER. THIS TIME--I WILL KILL HIM MYSELF!
THEY TOOK THE BAIT.
THEN LET US REEL.
NOW GO--GO--GO!

YOU'RE CERTAIN THERE'S NO ONE ON GUARD?
ON GUARD?!
HEAVENS, WHY WOULD THERE BE...
...WITH MY CREATIONS DOING THE GUARDING?
"IN A WORLD OF CHANGE ONLY CHANGE IS PERMANENT."
GETTING A BIT PRETENTIOUS, AREN'T WE, RIDDLER? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
WHY, I... I DON'T KNOW! GOOD GRACIOUS, THEY'VE CHANGED MY RIDDLE! AND CHANGED THE TRAP TOO, NO DOUBT!
BUT UNLESS YOU CAN SOLVE IT, BATMAN... YOU WON'T KNOW WHICH RAMP WILL CARRY US OVER THE SHARK-TANK!

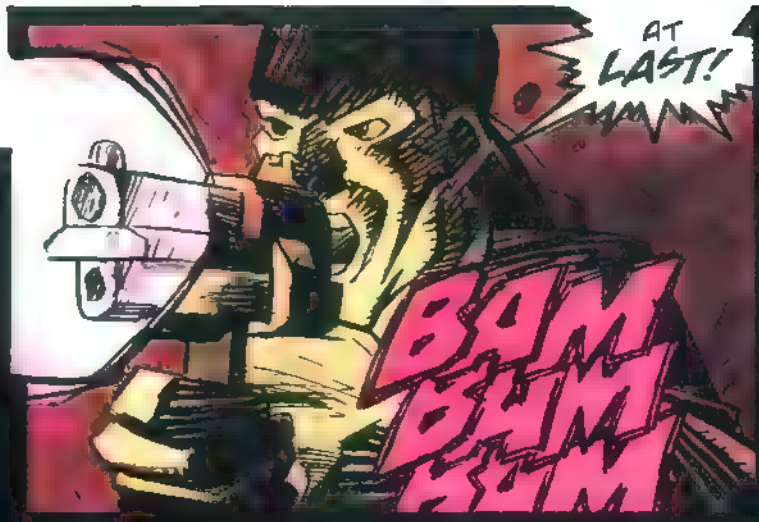
FOUR RAMPS...
...MOVING AT DIFFERENT RATES, DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.
"ONLY CHANGE IS PERMANENT."
GO AHEAD, BATMAN. I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU
THIS ONE REACHES ACROSS.
...BUT IT'S WITHDRAWING.
THE NEXT ONE'S STILL...
...BUT NOW IT'S...
WAIT.
"ONLY CHANGE...
ONLY THE ONE THAT'S CONSTANTLY MOVING...

...IS SAFE.
WHAP
RIDDLER?
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, BATMAN...
THAT WAS A SCARY ONE, WASN'T IT?
HMMMM...
I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW WHAT WE'LL FIND NEXT.
YES, YES. THE SLIDING BLOCKS, OF COURSE. BUT IF THEY'VE CHANGED THAT RIDDLE...
"SINCE THE BLOCKS WILL CRUSH EACH ONE OF YOU, PITY YOU CAN'T DOUBLE YOU."
WELP, THEY'VE CHANGED IT!
DOUBLE YOU.
SO WE FOLLOW A "W" PATH THROUGH THE BLOCKS.

ANGLE RIGHT-- QUICKLY!
FOOM
THEN LEFT--
CHOOM
--RIGHT--
THOOM
--FASTER--
KROOM
CUT BACK
SHOOM
OVER, THIS TIME.
DOOM
ALL THE WAY TO THE LEFT...

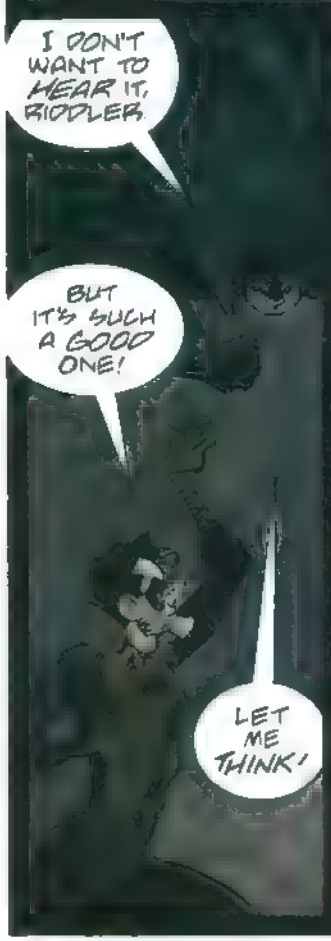
--AND OUT!
WOOM
ALL RIGHT, WHAT'S NEXT, RIDDLER?
RIDDLER?!
GOODNESS GRACIOUS! ;huf huf; I ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE THAT ONE!
HOW DO YOU DO IT, BATMAN? HOW DO YOU DO IT?
RIDDLER...
ARE THERE MORE?
OH YES, YES. THE WORST IS YET TO COME...
...THE GIANT TYPEWRITER!
WE HAVE TO LEAP OVER THE KEYS IN JUST THE RIGHT ORDER...OR WE'LL BE BLOWN TO LITTLE BITTY PIECES!
????????????? If a carrot is a carrot, then what is a pea? ????????????

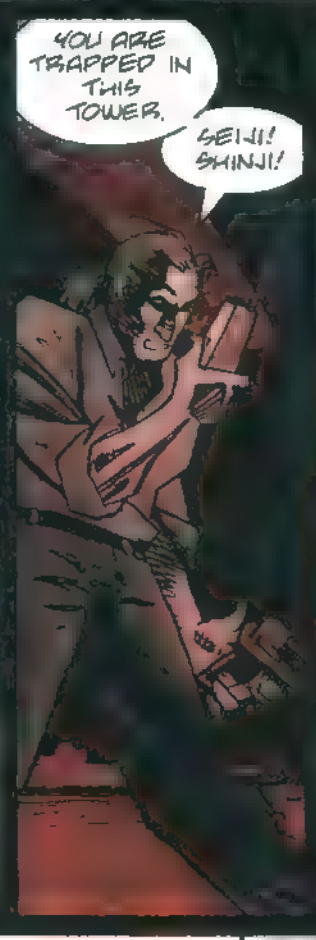
AND OF COURSE THEY'VE CHANGED MY RIDDLE AGAIN! SCALAWAGS!
BUT IF YOU DON'T SOLVE IT BATMAN, WE'RE...
...WE'RE...
BATMAN?
BATMAN, WHAT--
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A STAB AT THIS INGENIOUS RIDDLE, RIDDLER--
--BEFORE I THROW YOU ONTO THE KEYS!
WAIT! WAIT!
I CONFESS! I CONFESS! I CAN SOLVE IT!
BUT YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR WANTING TO WATCH THE GREAT BATMAN CRACK MY BEST PUZZLES, CAN YOU?
NO, BATMAN. NO MORE TRICKS. JUST MY OLD OFFICE AND...
OH! HELLO, FRITZ! ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MY VIDEO TAPE TOO?
..RIDDLER..
...BATMAN...

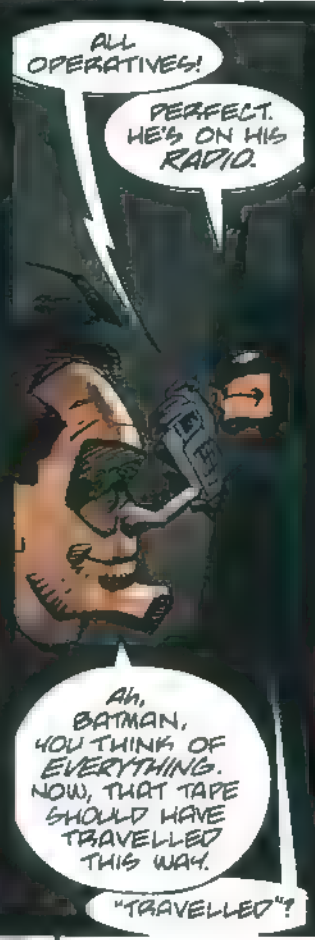

AT LAST!
BAM BUM BUM

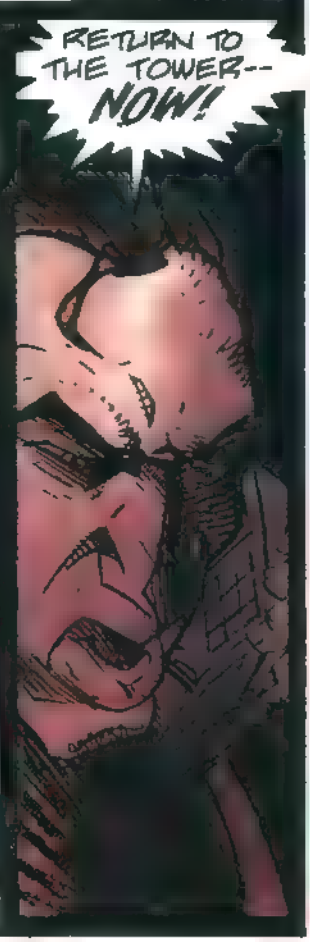
OUT OF HERE!
ZUMG ZUMG ZUMG

YOU SAID HE'D LEAVE WITH THE OTHERS!
YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO GO!
YOU'VE HEARD OF THE GENERAL WHO ORDERED HIS FLANK TO ATTACK?


I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT, RIDDLER.
BUT IT'S SUCH A GOOD ONE!
LET ME THINK!

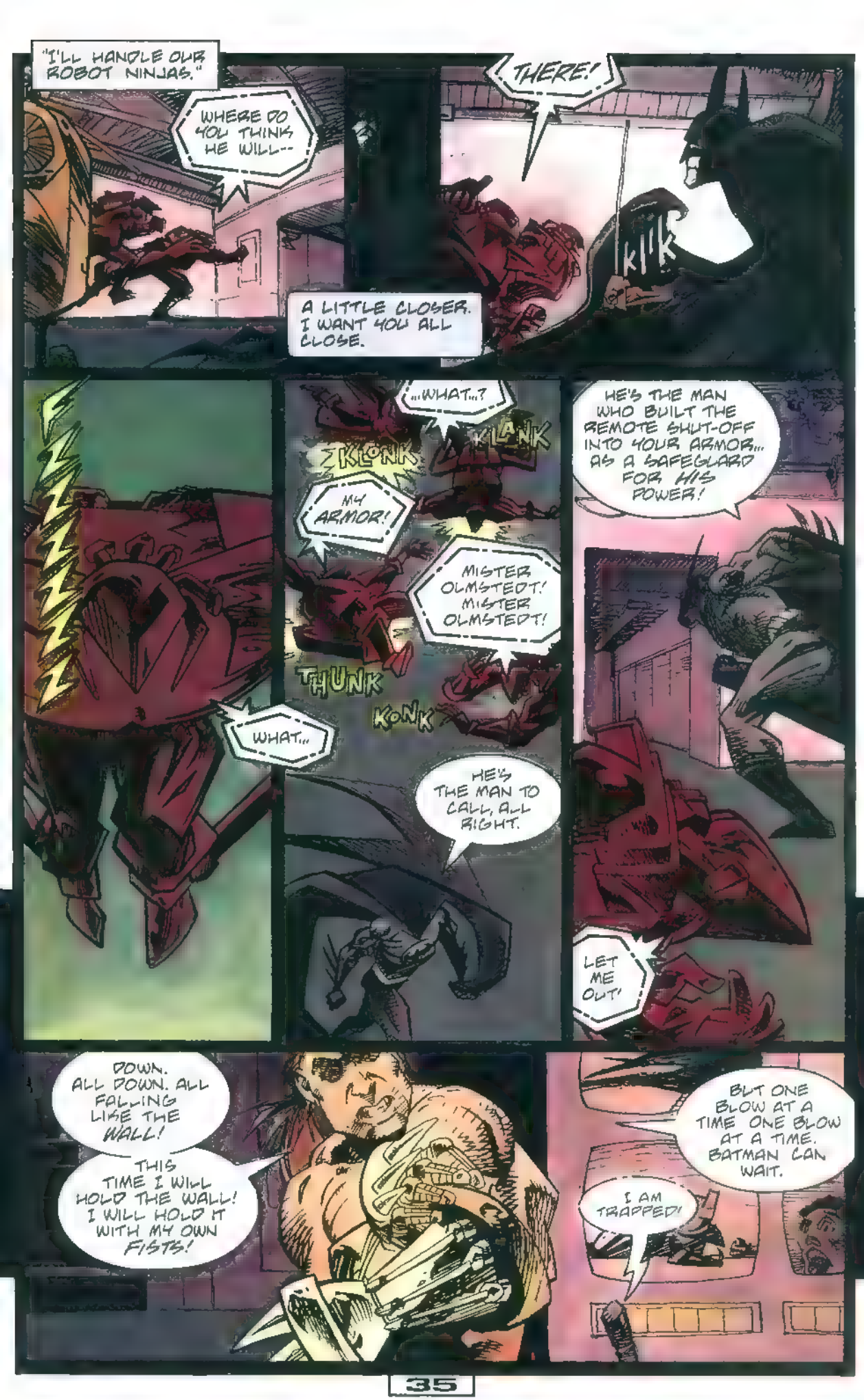

YOU ARE TRAPPED IN THIS TOWER.
SEIJI! SHINJI!


ALL OPERATIVES!
PERFECT. HE'S ON HIS RADIO.
AH, BATMAN, YOU THINK OF EVERYTHING. NOW, THAT TAPE SHOULD HAVE TRAVELLED THIS WAY.
"TRAVELLED"?


RETURN TO THE TOWER-- NOW!

PAAAPOPPAPA
THEY'RE DOUBLING BACK-- WHERE THEY CAME FROM.
EXACTLY WHAT BATMAN WANTED US TO PREVENT!
SO MAYBE WE OUGHT TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO...AT THE TOWER.
GET ON THE LINES! GET BODIES TO DIFORZA'S BUILDING THIS SECOND!
FORGET THE SIGNS! THIS IS NO DEMONSTRATION!
GOT IT. I THINK. AND THE MEDIA, RIGHT AND THE...
...COPS?!
LET'S GET SOME MOBILE UNITS OUT TO THE DIFORZA TOWER. WE'VE GOT A PROMISE OF SOME VIOLENCE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S ABOUT. BUT IF THE NEWS IS GONNA BE THERE, WE'RE GONNA BE THERE!
MOVE EVERY MAN AVAILABLE!
PICK UP ALL YOUR BROTHERS! BATMAN AND THE RIDDLER ARE IN THIS TOWER... THEY SEEK THE RECORDS THAT CAN UNDO OUR WORK.
THEY MUST NOT LEAVE ALIVE!
POPPAPAPOP
I HAVE TO PULL!
WHAT'S ALL THAT?
OH, DEAR LORD WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
ALL RIGHT-- LINK ARMS! HOLD TOGETHER--

--AND CHARGE!
OH... GOD.
POP PAPA POP
NOW BATMAN IS HELPLESS. NOW...
NO
THE RABBLE
SQUATTERS POLICE REPORTERS TELEVIS ON!
THEY MUST NOT TAKE MY TOWER! THEY MUST NOT FIND OUR RECORDS!
THEY MUST NOT FIND WITNESSES!
WITNESSES
DONNA
GET TO HER PENTHOUSE, RIDDLER--WARN HER!
BUT THE TAPE--
HANG THE TAPE! GET HER OUT!

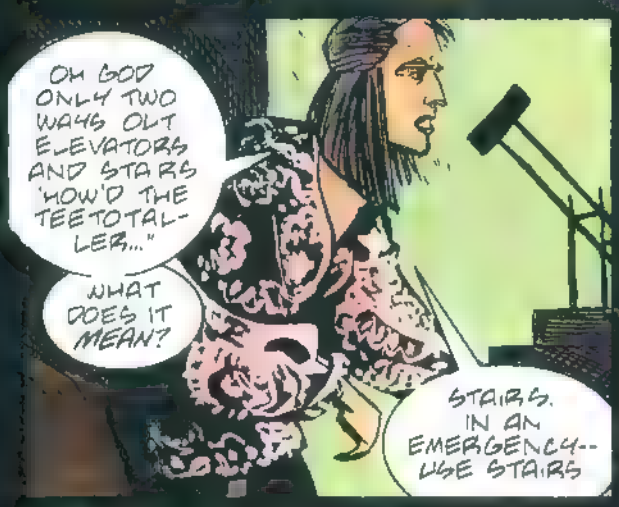

"I'LL HANDLE OUR ROBOT NINJAS."
WHERE DO YOU THINK HE WILL--
THERE!
KIK
A LITTLE CLOSER. I WANT YOU ALL CLOSE.
ZZZZZZ
WHAT...
...WHAT...?
KLONK
KLANK
MY ARMOR!
MISTER OLMSTEDT! MISTER OLMSTEDT!
THUNK
KONK
HE'S THE MAN TO CALL, ALL RIGHT.
HE'S THE MAN WHO BUILT THE REMOTE SHUT-OFF INTO YOUR ARMOR... AS A SAFEGUARD FOR HIS POWER!
LET ME OUT!
DOWN. ALL DOWN. ALL FALLING LIKE THE WALL!
THIS TIME I WILL HOLD THE WALL! I WILL HOLD IT WITH MY OWN FISTS!
BUT ONE BLOW AT A TIME ONE BLOW AT A TIME. BATMAN CAN WAIT.
I AM TRAPPED!

WELL, MIZ D! FANCY MEETING YOU HERE!
RIDDLER? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
OH, JUST A MANIAC RUNNING AROUND--
--TRYING TO KILL YOU.

BUT THERE'S A SAFE WAY OUT! LISTEN.
HOW'D THE TEETOTALLER GET SO HIGH WHEN HE WOULDN'T TAKE A DROP?

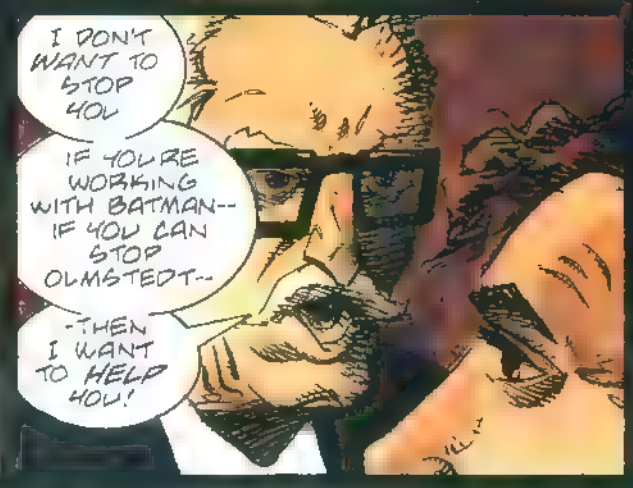
RIDDLER, DON'T DO THIS TO ME! JUST TELL ME WHAT IT MEANS?

BUT THAT WOULD SPOIL OUR FUN! LOOK ME UP WHEN YOU'VE SOLVED IT
RIDDLER!


OH GOD ONLY TWO WAYS OUT ELEVATORS AND STAIRS 'HOW'D THE TEETOTALLER..."
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
STAIRS. IN AN EMERGENCY-- USE STAIRS

STAY OUT OF THE ELEVATORS-- THEY COULD CUT THE POWER!
TAKE THE STAIRS AND CHECK EVERY FLOOR UNTIL--

MS GIFLENTES! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU CAN'T STOP US, GORDON! THERE'S TOO MANY--


I DON'T WANT TO STOP YOU
IF YOU'RE WORKING WITH BATMAN-- IF YOU CAN STOP OLMSTEDT--
--THEN I WANT TO HELP YOU!

THEY ALWAYS SAY, IN AN EMERGENCY, TAKE THE--
OH
PLEASE, FRITZ I WASN'T LEAVING..
IT DOESN'T MATTER, MS DIFORZA. NOTHING MATTERS ANYMORE.
OH GOD--
ONLY SILENCE MATTERS, MS DIFORZA
YOUR SILENCE
ungh
guhh
THE SILENCE OF ORDER
THE SILENCE OF PERFECT SECURITY

OLMSTED!!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT
WAK
AT LAST
YOU DIDN'T--
TUMP
--HAVE TO--
WOMP

--DO THAT!
KROOM
WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND, BATMAN?
THINK.
THE GLOVES.
DEACTIVATE THE--
CHUD
TOK
KA
TOK
KA
TOK
SOME-THING YOU WANTED?
TOO BAD.
KRUNCH

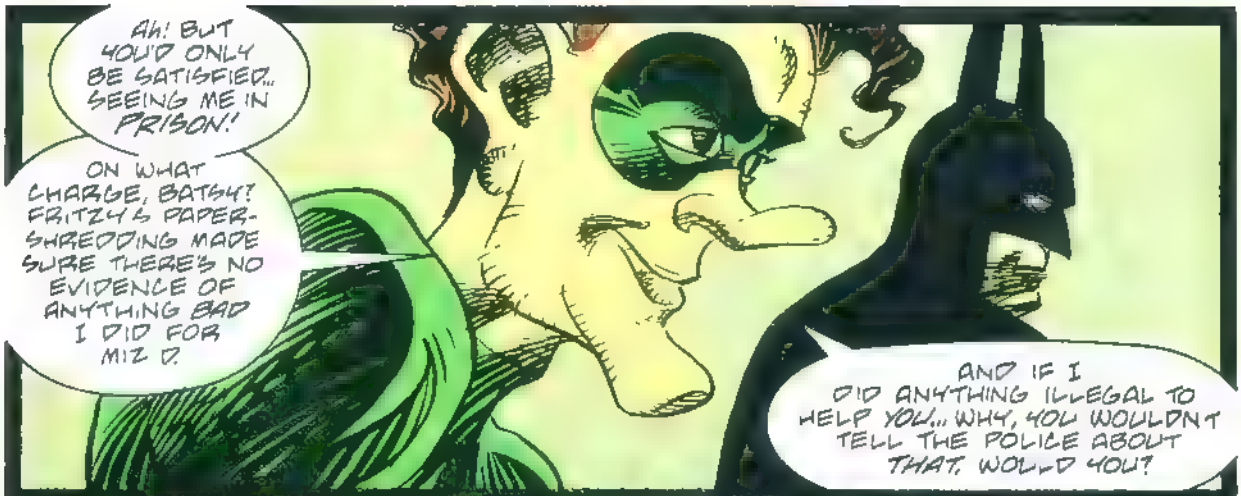
NOW WE START AGAIN, BATMAN. FIST AGAINST FIST.
STAY AWAY FROM THE GLOVES
GO FOR THE HEAD...
SWSSHH
HA!
WHOK
WHAT'S WRONG, BATMAN?
IS YOUR SKULL BREAKING?
KLUD
BREAKING LIKE THE WALL BROKE?
LIKE OUR GLORIOUS PLANS-- EH?
GO...
...FOR THE HEAD.
KJAK

PEAK
gYarrgh!!
YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME?!
FLESH AND BLOOD AND BONE MAN--
--YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT MY GLOVES?
SHOW ME, RABBLE!
hwukh!
KAK
SHOW ME YOUR POWER... RABBLE!
RABBLE!
RABBLE!
DABBLE SCRABBLE BOIL AND GABBLE! FRITZY BURNS AND RABBLE BABBLES!
...WHAT?

RODLER.
OH, DON'T LET ME BREAK UP YOUR GAME! I'LL JUST SIT HERE AND WATCH VIDEOS.
VIDEOS.
EVIDENCE
WITNESSES.
RABBLE!
THE WALL!!!

OLMSTEDT--
THE RAMP! IT'S LEAVING ME!
TRAITOR! TRAITOR!
gwlmmp

DARN IT! I MEANT TO TELL HIM TO TAKE OFF THOSE HEAVY GLOVES!
OH, WE...
...JUST DON'T SAY I NEVER DID ANYTHING..
...FOR YOU!
OH, BUT YOU'RE MAD THAT I DIDN'T WARN MIZ D, AREN'T YOU? BUT I DID, BATMAN!
IS IT MY FAULT SHE WAS TOO DUMB TO KNOW THAT THE ANSWER WAS, "HE TOOK A LIFT"?
OH! THAT LOOK IN YOUR EYES! YOU WANT TO KILL ME, DON'T YOU?
BUT BATMAN DOESN'T KILL, DOES HE?
AND YOU NEED THIS TAPE DON'T YOU?
I'LL BET YOU THINK I HAD IT ALL ALONG! BUT I JUST PICKED IT UP--
--REALLY! IN DONNA'S OFFICE!
I'D TOSSED IT INTO INTEROFFICE MAIL...
KNOWING IT WOULD FLOAT AROUND FOR DAYS BEFORE ANYONE CHECKED IT
NOW, IF YOU'RE SATISFIED I HAVE A DATE WITH MY PAROLE OFFICER.


AH! BUT YOU'D ONLY BE SATISFIED... SEEING ME IN PRISON!
ON WHAT CHARGE, BATSY? FRITZY'S PAPER-SHREDDING MADE SURE THERE'S NO EVIDENCE OF ANYTHING BAD I DID FOR MIZ D.
AND IF I DID ANYTHING ILLEGAL TO HELP YOU... WHY, YOU WOULDN'T TELL THE POLICE ABOUT THAT, WOULD YOU?

YOU SEE, BATSY? YOU WIN ONE ROUND, YOU LOSE ANOTHER. ONLY THE GAME IS ETERNAL.
AND THE GAME... IS ALWAYS THE SAME.

ONLY IF YOU NEVER CHANGE THE RULES

...IN EXONERATING BATMAN AND REINSTATING COMMISSIONER GORDON, THE MAYOR WOULD ONLY SAY THAT "MISTAKES WERE MADE BUT INTENTIONS WERE GOOD..."
, STEPPING ASIDE WHILE RECOVERING FROM HER INJURIES, MS. DIFORIA SUPPORTS THE NEW 'NEW GOTHAM' PLAN DEVELOPED BY HER BACKER, BRUCE WAYNE...
MS. CIFLENTES ON HER FIRST DAY AS DIRECTOR OF THE NEW GOTHAM PROJECT, PROMISES A NEW COALITION IN CITY GOVERN-MENT...
...AND THE RIDDLER HAS NOW BEEN RETURNED TO PRISON FOR FAILING TO KEEP AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIS PAROLE OFFICER...
DOWN FROM THE TOWER.

DOWN TO THE LOW ROOFS WHERE I CAN SEE THROUGH THE HEAT AND SMOG, SEE THE FACES OF THE PEOPLE ON THE SIDEWALK.
THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE CITY.
GOTHAM CITY.
MY CITY.
DON'T WHINE ORGANIZE

END

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